

EDDIE COLLINS MAY BE A HERO

Cicotte or Famous Second Baseman Will Be Star of the Series.

By ED. BANG.

The hero of the world's series? Will it be Eddie Collins, the premier twirler of the White Sox and the American League? Will Eddie Collins, who has been through the fire in several blue ribbon events with the old Philadelphia Athletics, be the wizard of the 1917 play-off? Perhaps Joe Jackson, former slugger, who has been coming into his own as a hit-smith during the past month, will grab off the diadem. Or will it be some unknown, such as George Roche proved to be back in the rare old, fair old days of 1906.

The New York Nationals have a trio of pitchers in Rube Benton, Slim Sallee and Ferdie Schupp, all worth-while, any one of whom may grab off the much-coveted honor of being the hero of baseball's biggest event. If the Giants win the coveted diadem, it will be Muggsy McGraw's first triumph in this line since 1906, when his New York bunch defeated the Athletics. Not that Jawn J. hasn't had a number of opportunities, but he fell flat in 1911, 1912 and 1913. By the same token, if the White Sox grab off the long end of the count it will be their first triumph since 1906.

But if the hero is to be a National League pitcher, we lean toward one of the southpaws to grab off the honors in the big play-off.

Alexander is Victor. Since he joined the Phillies in 1911, pitcher Grover Alexander has won a made over two games for every one he has lost.

MORRIS HAS AN EXCUSE READY

Big Fighter Defeated by Fulton Says Hinkel Was Too Heavy.

The battle of Meyers Lake will go down in boxing history as one of the most remarkable ever staged, and for a good many reasons. It was a heavy-weight fight full of surprises and pretty much of everything else that one could imagine.

It brought Fred Fulton out as a contender for the title and automatically effaced Carl Morris from the immediate situation. It started a million arguments, made enemies of former friends and generally messed things up badly.

Morris was a pitiable figure in his room at the hotel after the battle had ended. He lay on his bed suffering keenly. It wasn't so much the physical torture he was going through as it was the loss of the battle in the way it was lost.

"Hinkel was too heavy," he kept repeating. "I didn't butt and I didn't break any rules. I know that is my way of fighting. I can go no other way." Fulton kept complaining about the right from the start and why everything I did was hinged and yelled at.

WESTERN LEAGUER MAY GET BERTH

"If Fred Morris does not meet requirements for the Pittsburgh club then this Ben Shaw, catcher-first baseman, recalled from Omaha, should. He has been going like a bear for the Omaha club, hitting hard and doing a good job of fielding on first. Pittsburgh may yet account it a lucky day that it landed him. However, Shaw or any one else who tries to play first base for Pittsburgh, deserves sympathy. The history of that job this year has been that of the past—nobody satisfying the critics.

Parrish Going Good. Had young Parrish hit for Brooklyn anywhere near his present Toledo mark, he now would be one of the leading big-timers.

OH, MAN!



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DOPING OUT THE WORLD'S SERIES

First of a Series of a Dozen Articles by Hugh Fullerton, Greatest Dopster in the Baseball World, on the Coming World's Series.

BY HUGH S. FULLERTON.

GIANTS or White Sox?

This is the toughest mathematical problem a baseball dopster has tackled. The betting at present indicates that the majority of persons who are in the habit of making wagers on the outcome of the series will bet on the coming world championship. Some of the people of Chicago think the White Sox will win, and perhaps a greater majority of New Yorkers believe the Giants invincible.

It is the habit of baseball fans to think the way they hope and to let the way they want a series to result. Just picking a winner of a series on sentiment is folly. I could have myself a fortnight of tough work by saying the White Sox will win because I want them to win, because I believe they will win, or some similar reason.

The truth is, I'm pulling my leg but out on an average basis, the White Sox, but that will not help them win. Will Harry Stephen's will-eyed nose that the Giants will win help them?

We all want to know in advance when team is going to win this series, and this is the season of the year when the dopster works all night figuring out the probabilities, with the best result being the figures of the dopsters, who do not know a thing from a hit and run, and material for humorous kidding.

Fullerton's System. For the last dozen years, I have been working a system of doping baseball and of figuring comparative strength of teams. The system is not yet perfect, because there are some elements that enter into the game that make it impossible to calculate exactly. The system has worked out wonderfully well. This season practically every team in the American and National leagues finished as they figured to finish in March when I doped them according to the season.

The Boston Braves, St. Louis Browns and to a small extent, Detroit, failed to live up to the dope. The St. Louis Cardinals ran much higher than they figured, but when the figures were made, Britton owned the team and the change of management revived it. Chicago figured to finish last in the league.

How the Dope Works. Further, almost all the 16 teams won and lost about the number of games they figured to win and lose. The dope worked out well on the season—a little better than usual.

But doping teams for a regular season of 154 games, against all odds of pitching and seven clubs of known strength, is comparatively easy. A world's series between championship teams of leagues of known strength and varying styles of play is different.

Those of you who helped me dope the season last March must admit some of the dope rules. We can figure defensive strength on the same

basis, but, in a world's series, we must figure attacking strength in a different way. Further, we must deal with individualism and not with total or average strengths of pitching and catching staffs. The strongest pitcher with weak, clumsy catching staffs, the offensive strength of the opponents.

This Year's Doping Experiences.

Intercepting than any I ever have at a game. First, because it is the greatest and most important series ever played, as the two greatest cities are represented, and second, because there seldom have been two ball clubs playing an entirely different style of baseball.

I remember now that I have no idea what the final figures will show, I am rooting for them to show that the White Sox will win—but that has nothing to do with it. In doping teams this way we must forget all our likes and dislikes, forget all friendships and enmities (if you have any) and deal with each player just as if he were a dummy letter of the alphabet. It may hurt the tender feelings of some of the athletes, but what I want to know is which team will win, and there is no other logical way.

Dope It Yourself. A lot of you fellows will not take my word for it. If you take the system and dope it out for yourselves, you will find it works. Follow the system, and when my figures are out, you will find that my conclusions are not really mine, but conclusions from averages and statistics do not agree with your views, change them to suit yourselves. You'll be surprised to find how closely my conclusions do not agree with your views, change them to suit yourselves. You'll be surprised to find how closely my conclusions do not agree with your views, change them to suit yourselves.

Start with the back that baseball is a pure mathematics game, and out your average books for the last five years.

Now, here is the system:

Attacking Strength Greatest. The attacking strength of any team is greater than its defensive strength, or else no runs ever would be scored. Offensive play consists of batting, basing, stealing, hitting, and so on. We must, in calculating his value in the coming series, study the kinds of pitching he must face. It is no use to figure average pitching strength, because the chances are the White Sox will rely upon three pitchers, and Moravia will use only four, unless they are compelled to call reinforcements. Of this much later.

Giants are So Different. The thing that makes doping the New York-Chicago series so hard is the fact that we have diametrically opposite kinds of teams playing very different types of baseball.

We find in Chicago an unscrupulous, fighting, brains half club, endowed with a lot of mechanical talent, and with a spotty and not at all reliable pitching staff, which has been shot to pieces and revived during the season half a dozen times.

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Now, if the defensive strength is

thirty-seven per cent, we can figure how exactly as we did for the entire season. We can rely upon the averages of this and other seasons. What we want to know each man's strength in his position. To reach this, I have figured position values. These are not the values of men at all, but the average values of men in their position, and they are based on the number of chances a player in that position has per game. This table of values is as follows:

Catcher 14
Pitcher 14
First Base 14
Second Base 14
Short Stop 14
Third Base 14
Left Field 14
Center Field 14
Right Field 14

The Pitcher's Worth. That is, with the defensive strength thirty-seven, the pitcher is worth thirty-seven men. If the average strength of the pitcher is thirteen, and a fraction of Washington's team strength when he is pitching.

The figures furnish us a fair basis for comparison. If the average pitcher is worth seven, what is Cobb worth? If the average pitcher is worth seven, what is Cobb worth?

How It Works. Instead of using thirteen and seven, however, I use thirteen hundred and seven hundred, as we may carry out further and reach finer distinctions. If we preserve the ratio it makes no difference.

We must figure each man's strength number, certain pitchers. It makes very definite figures. We know certain pitchers can hit certain styles of pitching. We must, in calculating his value in the coming series, study the kinds of pitching he must face. It is no use to figure average pitching strength, because the chances are the White Sox will rely upon three pitchers, and Moravia will use only four, unless they are compelled to call reinforcements. Of this much later.

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ship of the game. Let me explain that. The White Sox have a lot of brains scattered around, and some of them at vital points. They blunder terribly and land up simple plays, only to turn and execute miracles a moment later. They are charged with not being smart—but forget that—that is not some public and have proved it. But they are not a fighting team, not aggressive, and do not battle hard until they are hurt.

Giants Are Aggressive. The Giants are aggressive, brains, and they fight all the time and for everything. In a world's series, however, this fighting counts little, as the rules are so strictly enforced to allow the favorite McGraw methods to be used effectively.

There is another big point: The majority of the giants are experienced in world's series. Of the White Sox, only Collins and Murphy have been through that mill.

Undoubtedly, the gamblers, in making the Giants odds on favorites, are figuring on the experience of the Giants, the gamblers and the reputation as "money players" against the inexperience and the tendency to panic of the White Sox.

Have to Study. We must all study these elements in doping the series, not as team totals or virtues, but as faults or virtues of individuals. The gamblers are beginning to "dope teams after their own manner. One New York gambler offered me almost as much as a year's salary to prepare this dope for him absolutely and to re-dope each night during the series. This is merely a warning not to make wagers with those fellows. They are wiser than we are.

The way we will proceed now is to take each man in his position, find his team value as compared with the team value as compared with the team value of his opponent by the average. No player of about equal value to the team value as compared with the team value of his opponent by the average. No player of about equal value to the team value as compared with the team value of his opponent by the average.

Monday we will take up the study of the four basemen and try to discover which is the better—not the better ball player necessarily—but which is the better man for the purposes of this series. That is all that counts. (Copyright, 1917, by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

EDDIE PLANK IS OUT OF PASTIME

Eddie Plank, the oldest pitcher in the game, announced his retirement the other day, but baseball men believe that he is trying to play a wretched trick on St. Louis Browns. Plank has been anxious to get away from St. Louis ever since Jones became his manager. He declared last winter that he wanted to be traded to one of the American League teams in the east.

In 1914 Plank, who wanted a raise in salary, told Connie Mack that he was tired of baseball and Mack, taking him at his word, released him outright. Plank then signed with the St. Louis Browns for more money than he had received from the Athletics and also pitched with the skill that made him famous as a Mackman. Although he is 45 years of age, the veteran left hander still is in rugged health and enjoys playing ball for money.

WALTON ENGINEERS.

Art McElroy, known in several military leagues as an umpire, is now in France, where he is a corporal in the 12th regiment of railroad engineers.



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34x2	13.50	15.50	1.25	34x2	29.50	26.50	24.50
36x2	15.50	17.50	1.25	36x2	30.50	27.50	25.50
38x2	17.50	19.50	1.25	38x2	31.50	28.50	26.50
40x2	19.50	21.50	1.25	40x2	32.50	29.50	27.50
42x2	21.50	23.50	1.25	42x2	33.50	30.50	28.50
44x2	23.50	25.50	1.25	44x2	34.50	31.50	29.50
46x2	25.50	27.50	1.25	46x2	35.50	32.50	30.50
48x2	27.50	29.50	1.25	48x2	36.50	33.50	31.50
50x2	29.50	31.50	1.25	50x2	37.50	34.50	32.50

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Bud Woods.

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Tucson, Ariz., Feb. 19th, 1917.

Dr. Ketchersid, El Paso, Tex.
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